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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

**WOMBWELL :
A. TAYLOR & SONS, LTD.
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The Gables,

WOMBWELL,

Nr. Barnsley.

August, 1948.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Health and social conditions of your urban district for the year ending 31st December, 1947. The data and statistics contained herein are those collected during the office of my predecessor, I am therefore retaining the form of presentation of the report as in the past and my comments will be minimal and in the main explanatory.

The general state of health in the district was good and no serious outbreak of disease occurred during the year. The wave of Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis which spread over the country and particularly the West Riding during the summer of 1947 fortunately left the district unscathed. Only one person was affected and, I am glad to record, he eventually made a complete recovery. The incidence of infectious diseases generally was higher than the previous year mainly due to a rise in the incidence of Measles and Scarlet Fever but the virulence of both diseases remained low and neither disease left any serious after-effects among the children affected.

The birth rate for the year was 23.16 as compared with 20.17 for 1946, and was again higher than the birth rate for England and Wales. The death rate was 10.74 as compared with 9.30 for 1946, but though the rate was increased as compared with the previous year it still remained below the average rate for the country as a whole. The actual numbers of deaths for all ages in the district was 64 as compared with 55 during 1946 while the total of live births was 138 as compared with 121 last year. This gives a natural increase of births over deaths of 74.

The most satisfactory feature of the vital statistics for the year was the very appreciable fall in the Infant Mortality rate. Only 1 death in infants under one year of age occurred giving an infant mortality rate of 7.24 as against 66.10 for last year. This is the lowest rate recorded for the past 10 years. It would be impossible, and indeed wrong, to ascribe this very

significant reduction in the infant mortality to any one particular cause and, though we can but try, it cannot be guaranteed that this low level will be even maintained in future years. Nevertheless this reduction in infant mortality must be a great source of satisfaction to all those people who work for the welfare of infants in the district, doctors, nurses, midwives and lay-persons alike, and be a source of encouragement to them in their future efforts.

Finally I am glad to record the completion during the year of 50 permanent brick houses in the North Street extension site and the erection of 1 house by private enterprise. In addition a start was made on the building of 50 permanent houses on the Barnsley Road extension site. While the district is still a long way from solving completely its housing problems, as the long waiting list for houses clearly shows, nevertheless substantial progress in housing was made in 1947 and it is hoped will continue until all people living in the district will share alike in the material health benefits which good homes bring.

I am,

Yours obediently,

R. S. HYND,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER FOR 1947.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area.

The area of the district is 2,018 acres.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population at the middle of the year is 5,958 showing an increase of 48 above the figure for 1946.

The population figures for the past 5 years are

Population for 1943	...	...	...	5,529
Population for 1944	...	...	...	5,703
Population for 1945	...	...	...	5,740
Population for 1946	...	...	...	5,910
Population for 1947	...	...	...	5,958

Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 1,743.

This is an increase of 51 over the figure for 1946 and is made up of 50 permanent brick houses erected by the Urban District Council in the North Street extension site and one house erected by private enterprise. A start was made towards the end of the year on the building of 50 permanent houses on the Barnsley Road extension site.

Rateable Value.

The rateable value of the district was at the 1st of April, £21,376/0/0.

The product of a Penny Rate was £78/5/1.

New Industry.

One new industry was established within the district by the conversion of disused school buildings in School Street into a small branch factory for the manufacture of carpets. Chiefly female labour is employed giving employment to a maximum of 40 persons.

VITAL STATISTICS.**BIRTHS :**

Live Births.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	61	73	134
Illegitimate	3	1	4
Totals	64	74	138

The Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population for Darfield 23.16.

The Birth Rate per 1,000 resident population for England and Wales was 20.5.

STILL BIRTHS.

Still-births.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	1	2	3

Still-Birth rate per 1,000 population for Darfield was 0.50.

Still-Birth rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales was 0.50.

Deaths.

The total number of registered deaths during the year was 64.

Male Deaths 39

Female Deaths 25

This total is 9 more than in 1946.

Death Rate per 1,000 population for Darfield was 10.74.

Death Rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales was 12.0.

TABLE 1. Causes of Deaths during 1947.

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	2	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Syphilitic diseases	1	—	1
Influenza	—	1	1
Cancer of stomach and Duodenum	—	1	1
Cancer of Breast	—	3	3
Cancer of all other sites	5	2	7
Intra-Cranial Vascular lesions	2	2	4
Heart Disease	11	5	16
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	—	2
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Pneumonia	—	1	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	2	4
Nephritis	2	2	4
Suicide	1	—	1
Other violent causes	2	—	2
All other causes.	2	2	4
Totals ...	39	25	64

Infantile Mortality.

There was one death during the year of infants under the age of one year. This figure is a tremendous improvement on the figure for 1946 when 8 deaths were recorded and is the lowest figure recorded in Darfield for the past 10 years. The infant mortality rate expressed in terms of the rate per 1,000 live births was :—

Infantile Mortality Rate for Darfield	... ..	7.24
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales	... ..	41

Maternal Mortality.

I am pleased to be able to report that again this year, as in the last two years, there were no deaths due to maternal causes.

Medical Services.

The Medical Services and Clinics have continued unchanged during the year.

Ambulance Service.

The ambulance service is organised by the West Riding County Council and operated from the Hoyland Depot. One new ambulance was received in 1947 and improvements were effected in the older vehicles. 436 journeys involving the carriage of 696 patients were made during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of cases notified during the year was greater than during the preceding year.

Infectious diseases notified during 1946	... ..	28
Infectious diseases notified during 1947	... ..	88

Scarlet Fever.

The number of Scarlet Fever cases notified during the year was 33 as against 12 in 1946 and 15 in 1945. Though the increase is significant the disease remained mild in type and left no serious sequelae.

Diphtheria.

As in 1946 not one case of diphtheria was notified during the year. The decline in the incidence of diphtheria in the past two years is almost certainly due to the cumulative effects of the immunization campaign begun in 1942 and the high level of protection most of the children in the district now enjoy. It is certain diphtheria can be abolished by immunization if 100% of the child population is immunized but until that figure is reached and maintained, there are no grounds for complacency. Already there are disquieting signs of a slight fall in the percentage of children being immunized. In 1945 it was recorded in the annual report that it was estimated that 58% of children under five and 95% of children over five were immunized. For the year under review the figures fell to 45% for children under five and 84% for children over five. The general level of immunity against diphtheria is still high but I think it right to issue a word of warning that the level of immunity might fall, with serious consequences, if parents take the over optimistic and unwarranted view that the disease has been eradicated from the district and fail to take advantage of immunization facilities for their children, so freely offered and so easily obtainable.

Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis.

I am glad to record that Darfield emerged almost unscathed from the epidemic of poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis which swept the country in the summer of 1947. Only one person contracted the disease and happily the patient made a complete recovery.

The incidence of other infectious diseases is shown in table 2.

TABLE 2.
Infectious Diseases Notified.

Cerebro Spinal Fever	2
Scarlet Fever	33
Whooping Cough	6
Pneumonia	8
Measles	37
Pemphigus	1
Polio-encephalitis	1
Total	88

TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year was 10 as compared with 9 during 1946 and 8 during 1945.

The number of deaths from this cause was 7. Details are given in Table 3.

TABLE 3.
Tuberculosis Cases Notified during the year, 1947.

Age Periods					New Cases				Deaths			
					Respirat'y		Non-Respirat'y		Respirat'y		Non-Respirat'y	
					M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
5	=	=	1	=	=	=	=	=	=	1	=	=
15	2	1	=	=	2	=	=	=	2	=	=	=
25	3	1	=	=	1	1	=	=	1	1	=	=
35	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
45	1	=	=	=	1	=	=	=	1	=	=	=
55	=	=	=	=	=	1	=	=	=	1	=	=
65 and upwards ...	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
Totals	7	2	1	=	4	2	1	=	4	2	1	=

